

The Aluminum Situation

ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

FEBRUARY 1991

1990 INDUSTRY NET SHIPMENTS DOWN 2.8 PERCENT

Based on preliminary figures, 1990 net shipments totaling 15,643 million pounds, decreased 2.8 percent from the 1989 total of 16,094 million pounds. Domestic shipments, totaling 13,076 million pounds, were down 4.5 percent from the 1989 total of 13,688 million pounds.

U.S. exports of aluminum ingot and mill products, totaling 2,567 million pounds during 1990, increased 6.7 percent from the 1989 total of 2,406 million pounds.

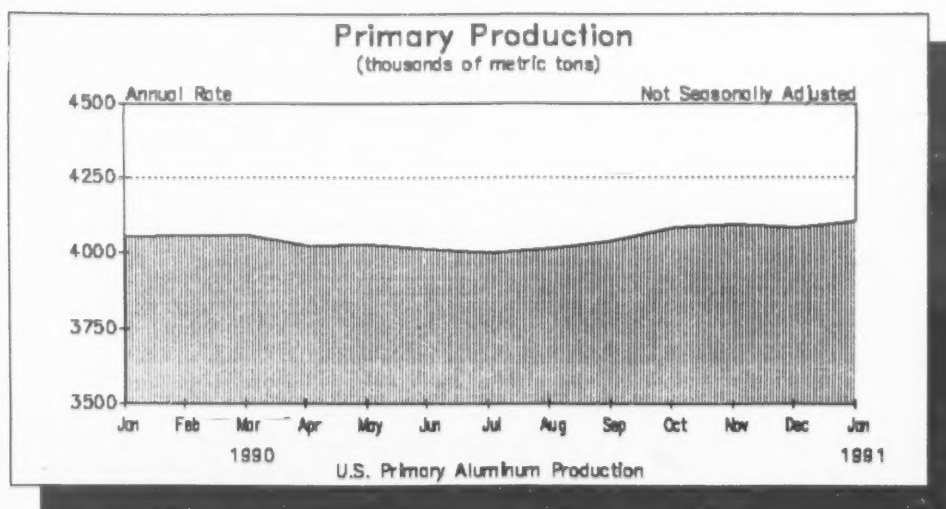
THRU DECEMBER 1990

	1990 12 Mos.	1989 12 Mos.	% Change
Mill Products	12,753	12,929	-1.4
Ingot	2,890	3,165	-8.7
Total	15,643	16,094	-2.8
Less Exports	2,567	2,406	6.7
Domestic Total	13,076	13,688	-4.5

Figures in Millions of Pounds
Source: Bureau of the Census
U.S. Department of Commerce

JANUARY PRODUCTION AVERAGES 11,255 METRIC TONS PER DAY

U.S. primary aluminum production averaged 11,255 metric tons daily during January 1991. This compares with an average of 11,121 metric tons a day in January 1990 and 11,198 metric tons a day in December 1990. The annual rate of production in January 1991 was 4,107,981 metric tons compared with 4,059,024 metric tons in January 1990 and 4,087,423 metric tons in December 1990. Production in January 1991 totaled 348,897 metric tons.



The Aluminum Situation

the Aluminum Association

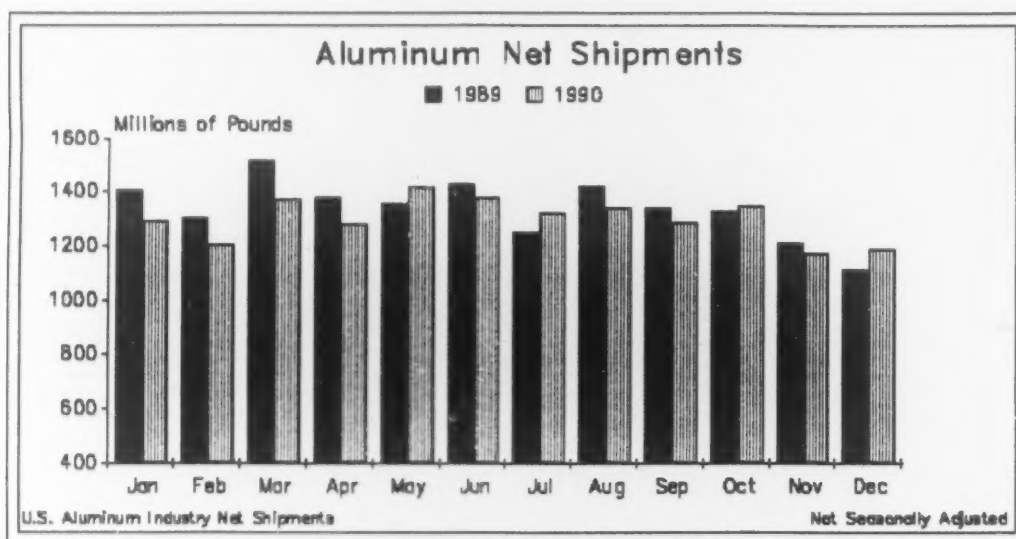
900 19th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone (202) 862-5100



This report contains information reported to the Association by the domestic producers, which is aggregated by the Association. While the Association believes that its statistical procedures and methods are reliable, it does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the data. All data contained herein are subject to revision.

DECEMBER INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS REPORTED AT 1,193 MILLION POUNDS

According to Bureau of the Census reports, December industry net shipments totaling 1,193 million pounds, increased 1.4 percent from the previous month's total of 1,176 million pounds. Year-to-date, reported industry net shipments totaling 15,643 million pounds, declined 2.8 percent from the 1989 total of 16,094 million pounds. During 1990, Census reported that producer shipments of aluminum rod, bar and wire, totaling 312 million pounds, increased 42.7 percent over the previous year while shipments of sheet, plate and foil totaling 8,423 million pounds have decreased just under 1 percent. Shipments of extruded shapes and tube, totaling 2,443 million pounds, declined 7.8 percent from 1989.



NET SHIPMENTS (Millions of Pounds)	1990 December	1989 December	1990 12 Mos.	1989 12 Mos.	% Change 1990 vs 1989
Sheet	552.4	518.0	7,265.4	7,302.4	-0.5
Plate	17.5	20.6	248.3	309.2	-19.7
Foil	63.8	62.1	909.2	887.1	2.5
Rod, Bar & Wire	19.6	7.2	311.9	218.6	42.7
Elec. Conductor	34.3	46.0	574.8	684.2	-16.0
Extruded Shapes, Tube	138.3	178.0	2,443.3	2,651.4	-7.8
Powder & Paste	7.8	7.1	99.7	92.0	8.3
Forgings & Impacts	9.5	11.6	153.3	158.9	-3.5
Net Imports of Mill					
Products (Total) (a)	63.3	47.0	747.4	625.7	19.4
Total Mill Products	906.5	897.5	12,753.2	12,929.5	-1.4
Ingot	286.0	220.1	2,889.8	3,164.6	-8.7
TOTAL INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS	1,192.5	1,117.6	15,643.0	16,094.1	-2.8
Exports	228.5	248.8	2,567.1	2,406.4	6.7
TOTAL DOMESTIC SHIPMENTS	964.0	868.8	13,075.9	13,687.7	-4.5

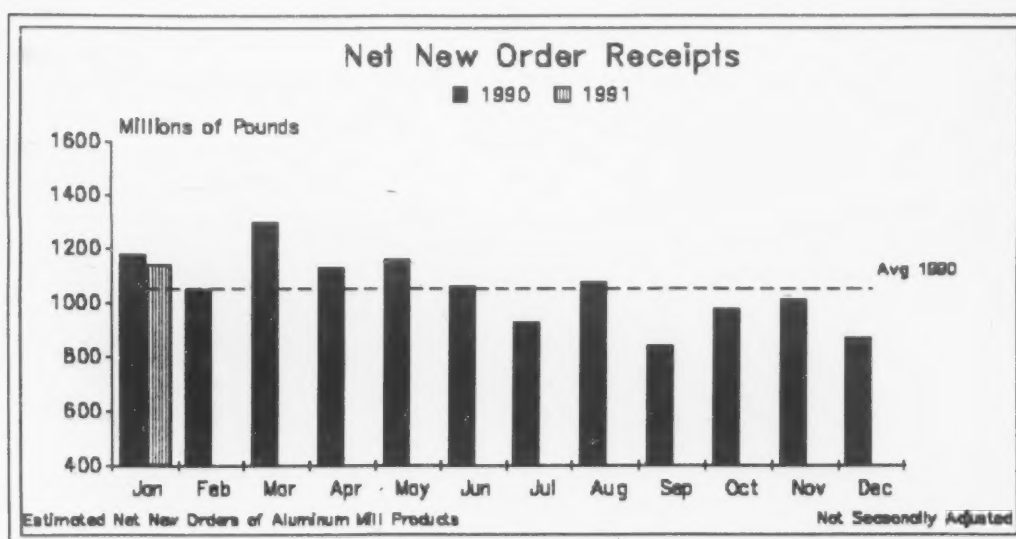
Source: Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce - CIR M33-D

Note: Cumulative data includes revisions for previous periods

(a) Not included in product data above.

JANUARY ORDERS ESTIMATED AT 1,141 MILLION POUNDS

Estimated net new order receipts of aluminum mill products for January 1991 totaled 1,141 million pounds, a jump of 30.4 percent from the revised December 1990 total of 875 million pounds. In comparison to 1990, industry order receipts declined 3.4 percent from the January 1990 total of 1,182 million pounds.



ORDER RECEIPTS (Millions of Pounds)	1991 Jan.	1990 Jan.	% Change 1991 vs 1990	1990 Dec.
Sheet & Plate, Other	324.4	392.6	-17.4	252.6
Can Stock (a)	360.7	349.9	3.1	293.4
Foil	87.2	110.2	-20.9	75.6
Bar, Rod & Wire	46.4	45.3	2.4	35.1
Electrical Conductor	58.1	45.3	28.3	53.7
Extruded Shapes & Tube	236.3	214.0	10.4	149.5
Powder & Paste	17.7	13.7	29.2	8.0
Forgings & Impacts	10.6	11.1	-4.5	7.8
Total Mill Products	1,141.4	1,182.1	-3.4	874.7

Source: The Aluminum Association estimates total industry orders (including orders for imports) based on weekly reports by members of new orders (less cancellations) received. The Association expands these data to total industry utilizing an expansion ratio that attempts to reflect the relationship of reporters to the total industry. Weekly data are available on a subscription basis.

Note: Cumulative data includes revisions for previous periods.

(a) Domestic only. Orders for exports of Can Stock are included in Sheet and Plate, Other.

PRODUCER INVENTORIES DOWN 21 MILLION POUNDS

Reported producer inventories decreased in December 1990 to a reported total of 3,993 million pounds. This represents a 21 million pound decrease from the revised November level of 4,014 million pounds.

Month-End Aluminum Producer Inventories (Millions of Pounds)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ingot</u>	<u>Scrap</u>	<u>All Other</u>
October	4,094	1,382	661	2,050
November	4,014 _r	1,355 _r	638	2,021
December	3,933	1,334	599	2,060

Source: Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

CUSTOMER INVENTORIES REPORTED AT 34.9 DAYS

Respondents to the Association's Customer Inventory Survey reported that their Average Days Inventory as of December 31, 1990 was 34.9, a jump of 6.1 percent over inventories reported at the end of November.

Month-End Aluminum Customer Inventories (Average Number of Days)

October	33.3
November	32.9
December	34.9

Source: Aluminum Association - Customer Inventory Position Survey

U.S. IMPORTS & EXPORTS (Millions of Pounds)		1990 <u>December</u>	1989 <u>December</u>	1990* <u>12 Mos.</u>	1989 <u>12 Mos.</u>	% Change <u>1990 vs 1989</u>
Imports	Mill Products	71.8	66.2	1,012.2	942.2	7.4
	Ingot	133.7	119.4	2,121.1	2,040.6	3.9
	Total	205.5	185.6	3,133.3	2,982.8	5.0
	Scrap (+ dross)	29.3	35.4	584.6	490.6	19.2
	Grand Total	234.8	221.0	3,717.9	3,473.3	7.0
Exports	Mill Products	60.7	72.1	1,054.8	1,095.8	-3.7
	Ingot	167.8	176.7	1,512.3	1,310.6	15.4
	Total	228.5	248.8	2,567.1	2,406.4	6.7
	Scrap	105.5	111.3	1,186.3	1,292.3	-8.2
	Grand Total	333.9	360.1	3,753.4	3,698.7	1.5
Net Imports		-99.1	-139.1	-35.5	-225.4	-84.2

Source: Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.
(*) Cumulative data may include revisions for previous periods